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Remarks

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103.

The Examiner's rejection is premised upon the assertion that the Fritchman '677 patent discloses storing character structures which, for each character position, identify frequently occurring characters in that character position. The Examiner admits that Fritchman is silent on the generation of statistics on an attribute, but asserts the Haas paper discloses storing character statistics on an attribute, and statistics for each frequently occurring character.

Applicant submits the Examiner has misread both Fritchman and Haas. Firstly, Fritchman clearly does not disclose, as claimed, "a first structure storing, for each of a plurality of character positions, frequently occurring characters in that character position". Fritchman, in the cited passages, discloses only that a character string should be broken down into a prefix segment, a suffix segment, and one or more interior segments. This is not disclosure of identifying, for an attribute of a relation, frequently occurring characters in a character position. Indeed, Fritchman does not disclose the generation of any such statistical information, or the use of the same, but rather discloses a matching methodology in which a "pattern is applied to each database value in turn, where the value is the result of evaluating the first operand of the LIKE predicate for each candidate row retrieved from the database." Clearly, the application of a pattern to every database value to determine exactly how many matches exist, is entirely different from using characterizing data to estimate a number of matches.

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Haas does not fill the gaps left by Fritchman. The Examiner asserts that page 528 of Haas discloses “storing character statistics on an attribute” and “statistics for each frequently occurring character”. Applicant is unable to identify any such disclosure. Specifically, Haas is directed to sampling based selectivity estimation, using what are called ‘augmented frequent value’ (AFV) statistics. While selectivity estimation and the use of frequent value statistics is somewhat relevant to the present invention, Applicant has been unable to identify any disclosure in the cited paragraphs of the creation of an index or statistic for text matching, that stores “for each of a plurality of character positions, frequently occurring characters in that character position.” The quoted paragraphs on page 528 only generally discuss the creation of AFV statistics and do not detail a particular form of such statistics for text matching, much less the particular form that is recited in the present claims, namely, “for each of a plurality of character positions, frequently occurring characters in that character position.”

As the Examiner has not identified how either cited reference relied upon in the rejection discloses a index or statistic meeting the claim recitations, namely, “for each of a plurality of character positions, frequently occurring characters in that character position,” Applicant submits that all claims presented herein are allowable and requests the issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

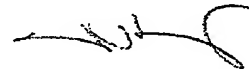
A petition for a one month extension of time accompanies this communication. If, however, any further petition for extension of time is necessary to accompany this communication, please consider this paper a petition for such an extension of time, and apply the

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appropriate extension of time fee to Deposit Account 23-3000. If any other charges or credits are necessary to complete this communication, please apply them to Deposit Account 23-3000.

Respectfully submitted,



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